

FINAL NOTICE TO LITURGICAL MINISTERS CONCERNING “PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN”

It has been nearly a year since we have been urging ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS that they must fulfill the mandate of the Diocese of Pittsburgh concerning “Protecting God’s Children” if they wish to continue in their ministry. We are so thankful that an overwhelming majority of those in Ministry have realized the importance of this requirement and have with little objection completed that which is necessary for them to continue to serve our Parish Family. We thank them for that, and certainly appreciate the great service that they continue to offer to the spiritually-enriching liturgies of our Parish Family.

However, there are a few who still have not fulfilled this requirement so we must sadly suggest to them that this Ministry Schedule will be the **final** one for them UNLESS they seek assistance in completing the forms. Susan Urso, our Parish Secretary, is always willing and available to help those who might have trouble with the Database. Simply call the rectory and Susan will complete the National Database Register for you. In fact, she will help those who do not have a computer or have difficulty maneuvering through the process. We ask simply: (1) get on the National Database with Susan’s assistance; (2) give Susan permission to send for your child clearance record; (3) stop in the rectory to sign the Code of Conduct form; (4) also at the same time sign the Child Protective Service Law and (5) attend “Protecting God’s Children” workshop here in Marian Hall. If those who have not completed each of these five requirements contact Susan before the end of April, then there will be no cessation of their Ministry. On the other hand, no new parishioner will be accepted in a Liturgical Ministry without having completed these requirements.

It is troubling for all of us on our Parish Staff that these few Ministers who have not completed these requirements have been serving so generously in our Parish Family for many years, and now they might be asked to resign their Ministry. There is no doubt about the wonderful background of all of these Ministers, and the purpose of this process is not to cast doubts on their past life. Yet we must be honest with all those who bring their children and other vulnerable people to the events our Parish Family that they can be absolutely assured that ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS will keep an eye out for the members of their family in case a predator for personal gain attempts to use one of our parish events that includes hundreds of people who gather with us. We ask that you, as a LITURGICAL MINISTER representing our Parish Family, be alert to any situation that might offend the dignity of any other person!